

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have not been amended. They are reproduced below for the sake of convenience.

1. (Previously Presented) A method, including steps of  
at a first device coupled to a communication link, generating at least one first message to a set of second devices coupled to said communication link, said one first message being disposed so that its receipt at said set of second devices causes said set of second devices to generate one or more second messages in response thereto;

determining a count of said second messages received at said first device;

determining whether or not a protocol mismatch exists between said first device and any of said set of second devices, in response to said count of said second messages.

2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, including steps of  
at said first device, adjusting protocol parameters to match all of said second devices.

3. (Previously Presented) A method, including steps of  
at a first device coupled to a communication link, generating at least one first message over said communication link to a set of second devices, said one first message being

disposed so that its receipt at said set of second devices causes said set of second devices to generate one or more second messages over said communication link in response thereto;

monitoring receipt of said second messages at said first device;

at said first device, generating at least one third message over said communication link to said set of second devices, said one third message being generated in an attempt to interfere with communication on said communication link when said communication link is configured as half-duplex; and

determining whether or not a protocol mismatch exists between said first device and any of said set of second devices in response to whether or not said attempt to interfere succeeds.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein at least one of said first device and said set of second devices includes an end-host or a switch.

5. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said communication link includes an Ethernet.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said protocol mismatch relates to configuration of said communication link as half-duplex or full-duplex.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A device, comprising:  
a communication link to a set of second devices;  
a processor that executes instructions; and  
a memory storing the instructions including the steps of (a) generating at least one first message to said set of second devices coupled to said communication link, said one first message being disposed so that its receipt at said set of second devices causes said set of second devices to generate one or more second messages in response thereto, (b) determining a count of said second messages received at said device, and (c) determining whether or not a protocol mismatch exists between said device and any of said set of second devices, in response to said count of said second messages.

9. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 8, wherein the instructions further include the step of adjusting protocol parameters to match all of said second devices.

10. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 8, wherein at least one of said device and said set of second devices includes an end-host or a switch.

11. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 8, wherein said communication link includes an Ethernet.

12. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 8, wherein said protocol mismatch relates to configuration of said communication link as half-duplex or full-duplex.

13. (Previously Presented) A device, comprising:

- a communication link to a set of second devices;
- a processor that executes instructions; and
- a memory storing the instructions including the steps of (a) generating at least one first message over said communication link to said set of second devices, said one first message being disposed so that its receipt at said set of second devices causes said set of second devices to generate one or more second messages over said communication link, (b) monitoring receipt of said second messages, (c) generating at least one third message over said communication link to said set of second devices, said one third message being generated in an attempt to interfere with communication on said communication link when said communication link is configured as half-duplex, and (d) determining whether or not a protocol mismatch exists between said first device and any of said set of second devices in response to whether or not said attempt to interfere succeeds.

14. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 13, wherein the instructions further include the step of adjusting protocol parameters to match all of said second devices.

15. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 13, wherein at least one of said device and said set of second devices includes an end-host or a switch.

16. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 13, wherein said communication link includes an Ethernet.

17. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 13, wherein said protocol mismatch relates to configuration of said communication link as half-duplex or full-duplex.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 3, including steps of at said first device, adjusting protocol parameters to match all of said second devices.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 3, wherein at least one of said first device and said set of second devices includes an end-host or a switch.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 3, wherein said communication link includes an Ethernet.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 3, wherein said protocol mismatch relates to configuration of said communication link as half-duplex or full-duplex.